



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1384 (O'Donnell) as Amended July 2, 2020 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Jackson,

The County of San Bernardino is please to support AB 1384 which would provide temporary and limited liability protection to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for COVID-19 related claims.

The COVID-19 pandemic has required significant changes impacting schools throughout the state, including suspending in-person operations and transitioning to distance learning to limit contact and achieve social distancing. COVID-19 still presents a threat to school communities and the strictest adherence to local, state, and federal health and safety protocols and guidance cannot fully protect school staff, students, and families.

AB 1384 provides that if a governing school board, or its designee, establishes policies and procedures for operating programs and facilities that are consistent with federal, state, and local legal and regulatory COVID-19 related requirements, including consideration of state and local health guidelines, then the LEA will have temporary protection from monetary liability and damages for any COVID-19 related injuries.

Subjecting schools to costly COVID-19 related litigation and liability exposure would divert scarce resources from educational instruction, meals, and other essential student needs. AB 1384 is a crucial proposal that will have wide-reaching benefits and encourage in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 1384. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman".

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Judiciary Committee
Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD
First District

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Second District

DAWN ROWE
Third District

CURT HAGMAN
Chairman, Fourth District

JOSIE GONZALES
Vice Chair, Fifth District

Gary McBride
Chief Executive Officer

